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M33-6
GENERAL
BACKGROUND

9-22-30

To: M. M. D. (Michael M. Davis)
From: H. L. H. (H. L. Harris)
SUBJECT: SYPHILIS CONTROL DEMONSTRATIONS IN ALABAMA.

The attached memoranda and data on the Macon County Syphilis Control Demonstration seem to show:

1. That there are no great difficulties in the way of instituting massed treatment for Negroes in the rural sections of Alabama; that given a desire on the part of the State and local health authorities, the cooperation of the Negro people is easily secured, and a reasonable degree of regularity in clinic visits can be expected.

The large number of letters received from Macon County, although suggesting that a conscious effort is being made by someone to have these expressions sent in, still show unmistakably the absence of any resentment to the treatment.

It would be interesting to discover the effect upon clinic attendance were the terminology of bad blood replaced by a term which would identify this disease with the bad disease which the patients know under a variety of local names. The large Negro attendance is due in part to the fact that in the minds of these people there is nothing to suggest that syphilis is not entirely respectable. Attached will be found a record of the untubercled reactions occurring in the group. There is a record of three cases of Jaundice, twenty-five cases of Dermatitis, five of Oedema, nine of abdominal pain, five of vomiting, two of fainting, two of Diarrhea, nine of Infiltration, forty-three of Pyralism, and four deaths.

Two of the deaths seem entirely attributable to effects of treatment. One case which from the history seems to have been an arrested tuberculosis, was aggravated by the administration of potassium iodine, and resulted in a very rapid military tuberculosis from which the patient promptly died. Another case

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died of acute nephritis - had previously shown an idiosyncrasy to *arsenic* and had been told never to take this form of treatment. This patient was unfortunately given several injections of neo-arsphenamin - an acute nephritis and death ensued.

1271 cases were treated in the six clinics in Macon County. The number of patients attending each clinic up to the 22nd of September are shown on the attached statement. There were a total of 1271 cases of which 268 refused treatment. The numbers taking 1, 2, 3 treatments are also given. It will be seen that 477 patients had taken 12 doses, the maximum possible at the date given.

1. Complete physical examinations are necessary to safeguard against the occurrence of complications.

2. Doubtful serologic reactions should be checked against physical findings. The opinions of physicians untrained in the differential diagnosis of syphilis are not sufficient.

3. The practice of treating 1, 2, 3 and 4 plus Wassermann reactions as positive and the institution of anti-syphilitic treatment on the bases of such a reaction seems doubtful. It would seem well worth while to have an expert syphilologist give an opinion as to which of his cases should be subjected to treatment, in the experiments now under way in other states.

In the Macon County experiment one case was noted in which a woman four months pregnant at the beginning of treatment was delivered of a living infant who died within one hour. It is most unfortunate that no examination was made of this infant to determine whether there existed evidence of congenital disease or whether death was due to an accident of labor. The mother was delivered under very primitive conditions by a mid-wife, and no examination of the body of the infant was made. It would seem that provision should be made to determine the effect of the treatment upon the children born of mothers treated during the demonstration. It would appear desirable that some form of tie-up be made with

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a competent hospital to which cases of unusual interest can be referred. The cases of Jaundice, Dermatitic, Oedema, etc., previously mentioned, should have received careful examinations and complete physical findings should be a part of the records of the experiment.

4. It would seem desirable that future efforts in the massed control of syphilis should receive the benefit of advice of experts in the survey methods in the fields of syphilology, sociology and economics, and provision should be made in the beginning for the proper hospitalization of cases disclosing such a need.

5. As a means of focusing the attention of communities upon the necessity for efforts for the improvement of Negro health and of enlisting the cooperation of State and local health officers, the massed control of syphilis seems to offer unusual possibilities.

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MACON COUNTY HEALTH
 DEPARTMENT
 Tuskegee, Alabama

JAUNDICE	DERMATITIS	OEDEMA	ABDOMINAL PAIN
3	25	5	9
IMMEDIATE REACTION.	DIARRHEA	INFILTRATION	PTYALISM
5 vomited 2 fainted	2	9	43
DEATHS	BIRTHS		
4			

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Station	No Patient	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Total	%
Nebraska	113	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	3	18	14	53		113	53%
St. Paul	421	77	0	2	4	2	9	8	15	35	18	32	56	157		421	46%
Chescon	113	33	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	5	12	10	58		113	50%
Hardaway	226	56	0	0	1	2	0	4	1	12	8	13	29	100		226	59%
Downs	182	47	0	1	0	1	3	11	2	25	7	18	20	49		182	36%
Liverpool	216	33	0	1	0	0	3	5	1	26	9	27	26	80		216	45%
Total	1271	263	0	4	5	11	15	29	19	113	50	120	155	477		1271	46%

Total number under treatment 1,003
20% did not apply for treatment.
80% took some treatment.
47% completed treatment.

September 22, 1930.

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EXTRACT FROM H. L. H. INTERVIEW BOOK.

CONFERENCE - 3 P.M. September 25, 1930

PRESENT:

Doctor Robert A. Moton
Doctor Eugene H. Bibble, Jr.
Doctor H. L. Harris

Doctor Bibble stated Doctor Miller, Macon County Health Officer, had suggested to him that in view of the large number of cases of Malaria, Tuberculosis, Pellagra, etc., found during the syphilitic survey, that he had in mind a complete examination of the Negro school children of Macon County, and also a survey of the home and living conditions. Doctor Miller had requested that Doctor Bibble cooperate in this movement and permit the use of the John A. Andrew Memorial Hospital for making the examination of a more thorough and comprehensive nature than could ordinarily be done.

Doctor Bibble desired to present this project to Doctor Moton and find out his reactions. Doctor Moton expressed being pleased such a project was under consideration and requested Doctor Bibble prepare a memorandum stating definitely the outline of the project and just what Tuskegee Institute would be expected to do in its development.

H. L. Harris.

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MEMO TO M. M. D. FROM H. L. H.

October 1, 1930.

SYPHILIS CONTROL DEMONSTRATIONS IN ALABAMA.

The week of September 22 to 29, inclusive, was spent in Macon County, Alabama and environs, in company with Dr. O. C. Wenger of the U. S. Public Health Service, Division of Venereal Control. There is attached to this memorandum a report on the Macon County Demonstration covering the period of April 16 to May 24, 1930.

As a result of a very careful study of the local conditions, the case histories of the patients under treatment, the conditions under which the examinations are made, and a study of the living and economic conditions of the Negro population, it seems that a statement which Dr. Wenger has made so often is essentially correct. This statement is that it is useless to attempt to cure syphilis in the rural Negro population in Macon County Alabama until and unless some way is found to treat the large number of cases of tuberculosis, malnutrition and pellagra, and also to give some fundamental training in living habits, with the necessary attention provided to enable one to earn a living.

In concluding his report on the Macon County Demonstration, Dr. Wenger stated:

"Macon County, Alabama, offers an opportunity for the study of public health problems in the negro race that is unequalled in the South. First; because Alabama boasts one of the best organized State Health organizations in the country. Second; because the influence and facilities of the Tuskegee Institute and Hospital which have been voluntarily offered in any program that will improve negro health in this community would be available."

Attached to this memorandum is an outline for a study of the seven thousand Negro school children in Macon County. These examinations would be divided into an examination of the physical condition of a child, and an intensive study of the sociologic and economic conditions responsible for the picture presented in the child's body. As will be seen from the interviews covering the

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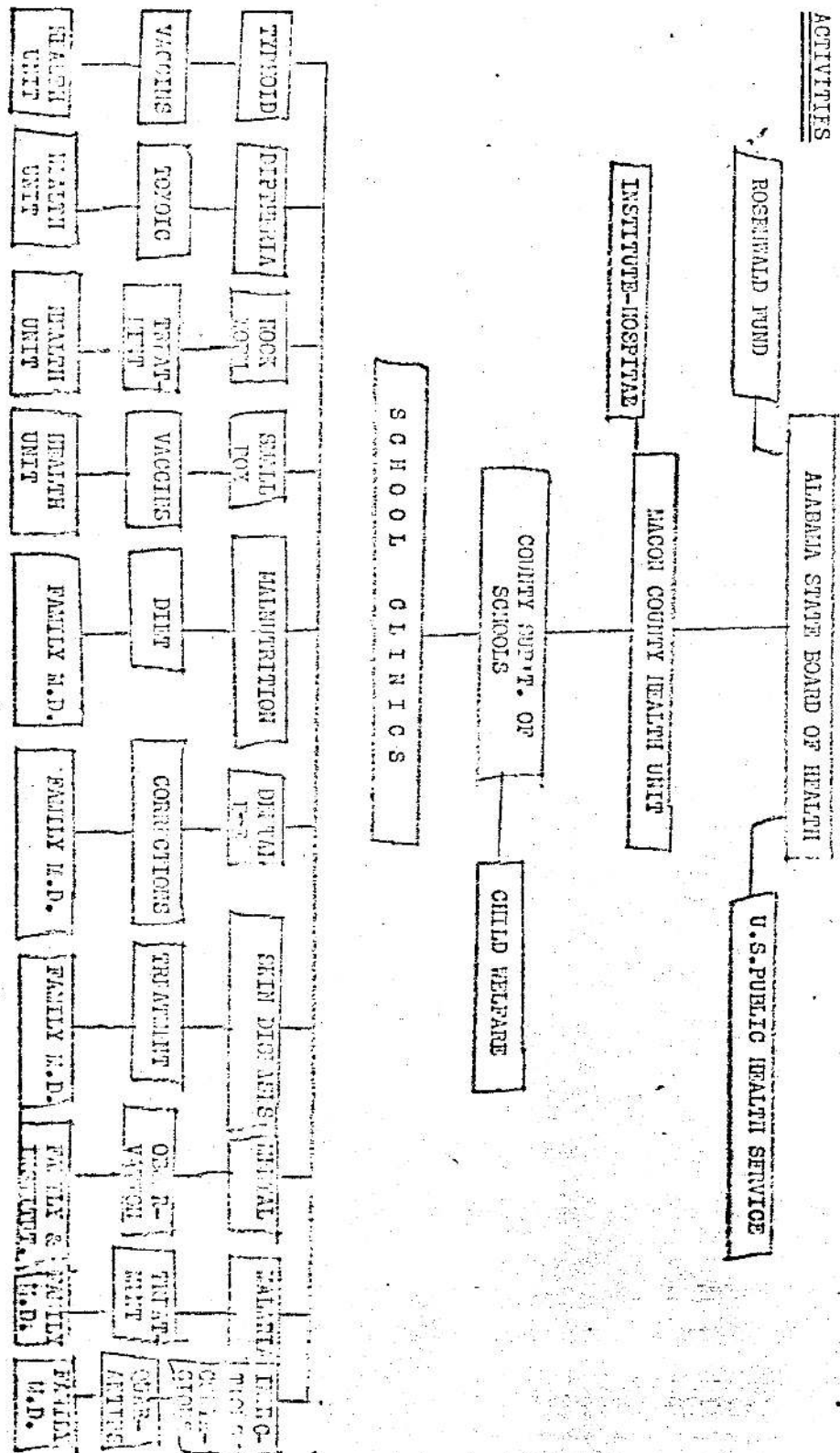
period September 22 to 25, the State Health Officer, Dr. Baker, the representative of the Board of Education in charge of physical education in the schools, the gentleman responsible for the division of Negro schools under the Alabama Board of Education, Mrs. Tunstall, the Chief of the Division of Public Welfare in the State, and Dr. R. R. Moton, Principle of Tuskegee Institute, have all been seen and have heartily endorsed the proposal made by Dr. Eugene Miller, the County Health Officer, to stage in Macon County a demonstration survey having for its object the establishment of norms of development in Negro children of school age, and the correlation of these norms with the economic and social background prevailing in the County.

1. The Syphilis Control Demonstration in Macon County seems to have accomplished practically all that can be hoped from it. It is very doubtful that the small number of cases which will be treated from date will justify the expenditure.

2. The John A. Andrews Memorial Hospital is running a very low occupancy rate, and although it has available a fund of ten thousand dollars for the equipment of an out-patient service, if the present use of the hospital is to be taken as a measure, it is extremely unlikely that adequate use will be made of the facilities by the citizens of the surrounding community. As in a number of other places, Tuskegee Institute has attempted to do privately welfare work which is now being taken over by the County authorities. There is a marked absence of cooperation in the efforts of the public and private agencies. The evident feeling of good will existing between the heads of the two groups seems to indicate that this is due more to the lack of a well-worked out scheme than due to a disinclination to work together on such a scheme. It would seem that one of the greatest services which the Julius Rosenwald Fund can render at this time is to finance the proposal made by Dr. Miller to bring together the local representatives of the Macon County Health Department and the forces of the Tuskegee Institute under the direction of an advisory committee to be composed of the State Health Officer, State Superintendent of Education, State Welfare Worker, and the Principle of Tuskegee Institute.

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ACTIVITIES



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PERSONNEL

BUDGET

Position	Salary	Trans.	Total
1. physi- cian	\$1,800.	1,600.	\$3,400.
2. nurses	2,400	1,200.	3,600.
1.	900	900	900
Cont.	600	600	600
			7,500

\$7,500

ALABAMA STATE BOARD
 OF HEALTH

MACON COUNTY HEALTH
 UNIT

DIRECTOR

NURSE

SANITARY
 INSPECTOR

VETERIN-
 ARION

SECRE-
 TARY

1
 PHYSICIAN

2
 NURSES

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THE PROBLEM IN SCHOOL GROUP

	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>COLORED</u>	<u>2,700</u>
<u>TOTAL POPULATION</u>	6,000	21,000	2,700
School Population (3-21 yrs.)	1,435	7,145	8,580
<u>Protected</u>			<u>Colored Undone</u>
Typhoid	1,200	2,000	5,145
Toxoid	800	2,000	5,145
Smallpox	400	100	7,045
Hook Worm	160	-	7,145
Physical Examin.	1,350	500	6,645
E.E.N.T.	118	5	7,145
Dental	1,200	-	7,145
Wassermann	-	1,300	5,845

Ask Clark to interest Eastman for Dental Clinic.